Tactical priorities identify the three separate tactical functions that must be completed in order to stabilize any fire situation. These priorities also establish the order in which these basic fireground functions must be performed.

These functions should be regarded as separate, yet interrelated activities, which must be dealt with in order. Command should proceed to the next priority when the current function objective has been completed or sufficient resources have been assigned to complete it and it is being accomplished.

Basic tactical priorities are as follows:

#1 – Rescue

#2 - Fire Control

#3 - Loss Control (Property Conservation)

#4 - Environmental Considerations

Rescue ------------The activities required to protect occupants, remove those who are threatened and to treat the injured.

Fire Control ------   The activities required to stop the forward progress of the fire and to bring the fire under control.

Loss Control -----   The activities required to stop or reduce primary or secondary loss to property and the negative psychological and emotional impact of the event on the customers.

Environmental –   Even with Fire Department operations, we must recognize our activities may have ensuing environmental impact, we should strive to be proactive and limit and environmental impact that may develop during fire department operations.

The objectives of each priority are reflected in the following benchmarks of completion:

#1 - Rescue – (Primary search) "All Clear" and "PAR"

#2 - Fire Control – "Under Control"

#3 - Loss Control (Property Conservation) - "Loss Stopped"

#4 - Environmental Considerations – "Loss Stopped"

All four tactical priorities require somewhat different tactical approaches from both a command and an operational standpoint.

While Command must satisfy the objective of each function in its priority order, Command must, in many cases, overlap and "mix" the activities of each to achieve the current benchmark. Notable examples are the frequent need to achieve interior tenability with active/extensive fire control efforts before getting on with primary search, or the need to initiate loss control operations while active fire control efforts are being extended.